

**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

**FIRST DRAFT**

**Serial No. 09/989007**

**Inventor: Judy Clark**

89. (Presently Amended) An ornamental item and coupling apparatus, the coupling apparatus comprising:

a substantially planar, semi-rigid backer having opposed first and second major surfaces, said backer having at least first and second spaced openings extending therethrough;

a tying element securable to tied around said ornamental item, said tying element having first and second opposite ends received in said first and second spaced openings, respectively, said first end secured to said second end to form a continuous loop, thereby releasably securing an ornamental item to said first major surface of said backer;

a first hook or loop fastener having opposed first and second surfaces, said first surface of said first hook or loop fastener secured adhered to said second major surface of said backer;

a second hook or loop fastener having opposed first and second surfaces, said first surface of said second fastener secured adhered to an object, wherein said second surface of said first fastener is releasably securable to said second surface of said second fastener.

90. (Canceled) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein said second surfaces of said first and second fasteners comprise loop and hook fasteners.

91. (new) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein said backer is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, cardboard, card stock, wood, and poster board.

92. (new) The coupling apparatus of claim 91, wherein said backer has a thickness of between about 0.03 inch and about 0.07 inch.

93. (new) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein said tying element is selected from the group consisting of a coated wire, a metal wire, and a plastic strap.

94. (new) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein the ornamental item is selected from the group consisting of a ribbon, a bow, a crayon box, a stuffed animal toy, a flower, a flower tube, and a barrette.

95. (new) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein said first and second openings are circular in configuration.

96. (new) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein said backer includes first and second opposite ends, a first cut-out extending from a periphery of said first end to said first opening, and a second cut-out extending from the periphery of said second end to said second opening, wherein each corresponding cut-out and opening have a key-hole configuration.

97. (Presently Amended) The coupling apparatus of claim 89, wherein each of said openings includes a frst slit and a second slit disposed at an angle to and adjoining the first slit adjoining said first slit and angular disposed relative to said first slit.